U.S Army Future Combat Systems (FCS) Demonstrate Ability for Soldiers to Train Anywhere and at Anytime

Orlando, FL – The U.S. Army Future Combat Systems program will demonstrate advantages of its network based Training Support Package (TSP) at Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation & Education Conference (I/ITSEC).

The FCS network will provide future soldiers with the ability to have individual and collective training products at their fingertips. By updating training packages through the network and embedding those onto the hard drive of the soldier's vehicles, the Army will provide the ability to train anywhere, anytime on the equipment the soldier will actually flight on.

In a FCS brigade soldiers will continue to train in the Live, Virtual and Constructive mode, while all individual and collective FCS training products will come in one of three forms of Training Support Packages, or TSPs for short. A TSP is a complete package of training material needed to teach individuals, teams, and units how to perform their individual and collective tasks associated with planning, preparing, executing, and assessing operations. Individual training will come in the form of Interactive Multimedia Instruction (IMI) courseware and Integrated Electronic Technical Manuals (IETM) and collective training will come in the form of Constructive or Virtual simulation-based TSPs.

These individual and collective TSPs will be embedded in the computer system on board the FCS vehicle and soldiers will access them through what is called the Warfighter Machine Interface. The Warfighter Machine Interface's primary job is to present relevant and timely battlefield information to the soldier, but it will also provide context-sensitive presentation management and simple, consistent role-based presentations such as training scenarios.

For example, if a gunner of a FCS Mounted Combat System vehicle wanted a specific set of gunner training information, the soldier would use the vehicle's Warfigher Machine Interface to access the specific training package embedded on the vehicle's computer hard drive. The soldier could then perform the training using the actual vehicle he is assigned to and in any location. Today, the gunner would not have that option as training packages are not embedded on platform computer systems or updated automatically over a network—he would have to conduct the training at a specific location and time.

FCS is the Army's key modernization program consisting of a family of new combat vehicles, unmanned aerial and ground systems and sensors all connected by a state-of-the-art network. Journalists are invited to visit the FCS I/ISTEC demonstration booth 101 Hall C during regular show hours. There they will meet embedded training developers and be able to participate in a hands on demonstration of the FCS Training Support Package. Journalists can also operate a FCS Manned Ground Vehicle while seeing how the FCS network will operate during an interactive battle scenario in the FCS Mobile Demonstration Trailer.